AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic implant configured to be implanted into a space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

a foraminous, corrugated biocompatible material formed into a an internal sleeve, which internal sleeve is configured as an endless loop;

a foraminous biocompatible material formed into an outer sleeve, which outer sleeve is configured as an endless loop;

wherein the implant is provided with a first end, a second end and a length dimension extending therebetween;

wherein the first end and the second end are open;

wherein the first open end is adapted to contact the first one of the vertebrae;

wherein the second open end is adapted to contact the second one of the vertebrae;

wherein the implant bears a load between the first one of the vertebrae and the second one of the vertebrae;

wherein the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve are disposed in a concentric configuration, with the internal sleeve inside of the outer sleeve, with a first end of each of the internal sleeve and outer sleeve forming the first end of the implant and with a second end of each of the internal sleeve and outer sleeve forming the second end of the implant;

wherein the ~~implant~~ internal sleeve has corrugations extending radially outward around an axis extending from the first one of the vertebrae to the second one of the vertebrae; ~~and~~

wherein the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve are fixed to one another such that relative motion between the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve is substantially eliminated, the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve being fixed via at least one connection point where a corrugation of the internal sleeve meets the outer sleeve; and

wherein the biocompatible material has a thickness dimension in the size range of about 0.5 mm to about 3.0 mm.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the biocompatible material is titanium.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is constructed from ~~a~~ two foraminous corrugated ~~loop~~ loops.

9. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is constructed from ~~a~~ two foraminous corrugated ~~sheet~~ sheets.

10. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein ~~the implant~~ at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve is comprised of an intersecting network of landed regions that define a plurality of openings in the network, wherein the openings are dispersed among the landed regions.

11. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein ~~the implant~~ at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve has a substantially circular shape.

12. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein ~~the implant~~ at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve has a substantially elliptical shape.

13. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein the implant surrounds a material

selected from the group consisting of bone graft material and a bone growth promoting material and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve includes a plurality of openings and the implant further comprises a cerclage passing through the openings and being secured around ~~the~~ a bone to secure at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve to the bone.

15-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein bone is placed in the implant prior to implanting.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic implant configured to be implanted into a space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

a foraminous, corrugated biocompatible material formed into ~~a~~ an internal sleeve, which internal sleeve is configured as an endless loop;

a foraminous biocompatible material formed into an outer sleeve, which outer sleeve is configured as an endless loop;

wherein the implant is provided with a first end, a second end and a length dimension extending therebetween;

wherein the first end and the second end are open;

wherein the first open end is adapted to contact the first one of the vertebrae;

wherein the second open end is adapted to contact the second one of the vertebrae;

wherein the implant bears a load between the first one of the vertebrae and the second one of the vertebrae;

wherein the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve are disposed in a concentric configuration, with the internal sleeve inside of the outer sleeve, with a first end of each of the internal sleeve and outer sleeve forming the first end of the implant and with a second end of each of the internal sleeve

and outer sleeve forming the second end of the implant;

wherein the ~~implant~~ internal sleeve has corrugations extending radially outward around an axis extending from the first one of the vertebrae to the second one of the vertebrae; ~~and~~

wherein the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve are fixed to one another such that relative motion between the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve is substantially eliminated, the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve being fixed via at least one connection point where a corrugation of the internal sleeve meets the outer sleeve; and

wherein the biocompatible material is titanium.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the biocompatible material ~~from which the sleeve is formed~~ has a thickness dimension in the size range of about 0.5 mm to about 3.0 mm.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is constructed from ~~a~~ two foraminous corrugated ~~loop~~ loops.

31. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is constructed from ~~a~~ two foraminous corrugated ~~sheet~~ sheets.

32. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein at least one of the ~~implant~~ internal sleeve and the outer sleeve is comprised of an intersecting network of landed regions that define a plurality of openings in the network, wherein the openings are dispersed among the landed regions.

33. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein ~~the implant~~ at least

one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve has a substantially circular shape.

34. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein ~~the implant~~ at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve has a substantially elliptical shape.

35. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant surrounds a material selected from the group consisting of bone graft material and a bone growth promoting material and mixtures thereof.

36. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein at least one of the inner sleeve and outer sleeve includes a plurality of openings and the implant further comprises a cerclage passing through the openings and being secured around ~~the~~ a bone to secure at least one of the internal sleeve and the outer sleeve to the bone.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein bone is placed in the implant prior to implanting.